

OBSERVANCE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATRIOTIC ACTION TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C., IN MAY, 1775.

FEBRUARY 20, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. LUCE, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12233]

The Committee on the Library, to which was referred the bill H. R. 12233, having considered the resolution contemplating the establishment of a commission for the participation of the Federal Government in the celebration at Charlotte, N. C., in May of this year, do recommend that it be passed with the following amendments:

Strike out the title and amend same to read: "Establishing a commission for the participation of the United States in the observance of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the patriotic action taken by the people of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in May 1775, in declaring their independence of the English Crown." In line 2, page 2, after the word "Representatives" insert the words "to be appointed by the Speaker." In lines 16 and 17, section 3, page 2, strike out the words "of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence" and insert in lieu thereof the words "of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the patriotic action of the citizens of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in May, 1775, who then declared their independence of the English Crown."

There is no question that the people of Mecklenburg County, N. C., did in May of 1775, take decisive action to govern themselves, declaring themselves independent of the Crown of Great Britain. Their descendants and indeed practically all the people of North Carolina believe that the action was taken in the early morning of May 20, after many hours of deliberation, following the receipt of news of what had taken place at Lexington and Concord. Historians dispute on this point but all agree that on the 31st of May the courageous patriots

of Mecklenburg County, meeting in the town of Charlotte, did pass resolutions specifically declaring themselves independent of the Crown, thus taking a honorable place in the van of the Revolution. The one hundred and fiftieth commemoration of this noteworthy stand will take place in May of this year and it seems fitting that the Federal Government shall have a share therein. Regardless of the controversies of the historians and without paying heed to any uncertainties in the case, it is nevertheless clear that the celebration of the self-reliance and valor of our forefathers, to whom we owe the blessings of our liberty, may wisely be commemorated with pageants and exercises that shall fire the imaginations of youth and revive the enthusiasms of maturer years. In line, therefor, with the recognition that has been given by this Congress to like celebrations elsewhere the Committee recommends the passage of the resolve.

